Even if it wants
essed, I cannot get depressed.
e from the life in daily life.
Such man's new love story
KAIOHSHA COMICS
つまらない男
A boring man
山本小鉄子 KOTETSUKO YAMAMOTO presents

PROFILE
山本小鉄子
KOTETSUKO YAMAMOTO

Birthday
January 4th

Blood Type
A

Location
Osaka But in a rural area

Likes
Professional baseball

Dislikes
My atomach

Recent News
I'm gargling diligently

COVER DESIGN 清水香苗(CoCo Design)

つまらない男
A boring man
山本小鉄子 KOTETSUKO YAMAMOTO presents

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KOTETSUKO YAMAMOTO PRESENTS

つまらない男
Aborgin Man

Note: Chuuhai is a canned alcoholic beverage made with fruit juice and a liquor called shochu.

I have to work tomorrow
TICK TICK
It's already 11 o'clock. I've got to take a bath
Oh...
TICK TICK
GROGGY
TICK
I can't get too depressed...
I can't deviate from my daily routine
IF I DO
IT WILL IMPEDE MY PROGRESS AT WORK
OPEN
I wonder if this is the kind of thing that makes me worthless...

OH!

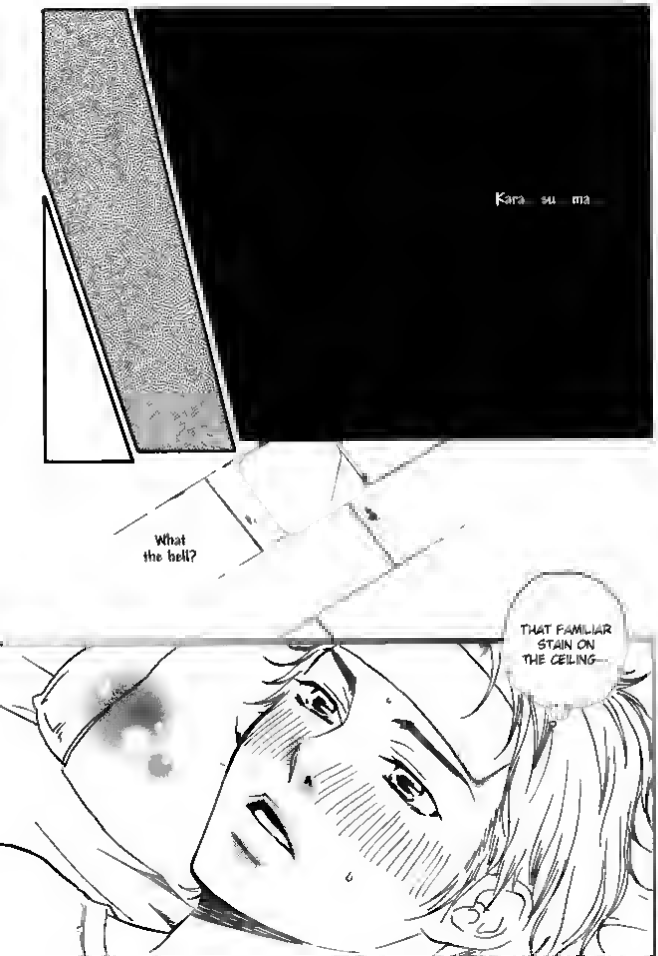
CLOSE
YEAH. WELL... THE SENIOR GUYS TOLD ME I HAD TO GO.
DID YOU GO TO THAT PARTY TONIGHT?
HELLO HASHIMOTO-SAN.
DID YOU JUST GET HOME, KARASUMA?

HASHIMOTO-SAN...
YOU'RE THE STAR OF PLANNING DIVISION TWO!♡
THAT'S BECAUSE WOMEN SHOW UP WHEN THEY BRING YOU...
Whatever...
I'm kidding, I'm kidding!!
You look like a lady-killer boy.
ARE YOU ABOUT TO TAKE A BATH NOW?
!!!
HUH? YEAH.
I THINK YOU SHOULD SKIP IT...
I'M FINE
MY FACE MAY BE RED, BUT I'M NOT REALLY DRUNK.
STEP
STEP
STEP
Karasuma and I both work in Planning Division Two.
SEE YA LATER, MR. POPULARITY!

He also lives next door to me in our company dormitory
入浴
*bathe
OH!
NO ONE'S HERE LUCKY ME!♡
STEAM
AAH...
THIS IS NICE
SPLASH...
I'M SO TIRED OF ALL THIS CRAP...
.....
BORING, HUH...?

STEAM
SIGH
RATTLE
HELLO
OH
SPLASH
LAP
LAP
LAP
CLOSE
SHHAAA...
HE'S BETTER THAN I AM...
Karasuma is just 23 years old
He's three years younger than I am but...
...Karasuma's career is on the rise.
Our boss really likes him...

I wonder what it's like to be someone like Karasuma?
And on top of that women find him very attractive.
He's definitely a completely different animal from someone like me
Oh no!
SPLISH
Oh
SNORK
SPLISH
SPLISH
For some reason my head is spinning


Kara... su... ma...
What the hell?
THAT FAMILIAR STAIN ON THE CEILING—

KA-KA-KA?
KA KA-KA-KA.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
KARA-SUMA
That close-up of his face appearing out of nowhere scared the crap out of me!
WHAT THE HELL!? I—
was in the bathtub...
ALL THE BLOOD RUSHED TO YOUR HEAD AND YOU FAINTED
POP OUT
ARE YOU OKAY?
What—?!
I HAD TO GO INSIDE YOUR APARTMENT WITHOUT PERMISSION
THAT'S— SORRY I—
SIT UP
SO YOU C-CARRIED ME HERE?
YEAH AND DRESSED YOU...

YOU'RE A LIFESAVER. YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT.
UH...
SERIOUSLY. THANK YOU, KARASUMA.
SO YOU DRANK FIVE CANS OF CHUUHI!?
BLEH
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT.
GOOD THING YOU HAPPENED TO BE THERE!
!?
AND, I WANTED TO SEE YOU NAKED, HASHIMOTO
Huuuh?!
So
Huh?
I DECIDED TO TAKE A BATH BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
HUH...?

An ordinary guy like me can't really read his reaction
This is obviously a joke
UH...
AHA... HAHA- HAHA...
.....
HEHE
I LOVE YOU, HASHIMOTO-SAN
Huh ?
WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?

OPEN
GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.
WELL GOODNIGHT
I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.
HAHA
C-CUT IT OUT!
I MIGHT...
...TAKE YOUR JOKE SERIOUSLY...
CLOSE
MY HEAD IS STILL SPINNING...
Karasuma likes... me?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
sfx flop
box Cooling pads 10 pads

I'm nervous
Aaah
How should I treat him today?
OUR DESKS ARE SIDE BY SIDE
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
GOOD MORNING
I guess he wants to keep work separate from his personal life
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
!?
TURN AWAY
SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT
OH!
NO PROB-LEM

Hey! Karasuma!
GLANCE
"I love you, Hashimoto-san"
BEEP
TAP
TAP
TAP
I'm seriously nervous
DING DONG
I'M THE ONLY ONE THAT FEELS NERVOUS I'M SO STUPID
"It wasn't an accident"
with Karasuma
56
I saw it in the bath.
He had a pretty nice body too
I'd be lying if I said he was all brawn and no brains. He's a really cool guy
BLUSH
WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT THIS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING ?!
If I say okay, then naturally things like this will happen
Foreign lly blank

Can he see what I'm thinking?!
!!
HEH...
Arrrgh! What's with that smile?!
HUH?
FLUTTER
OH, NO!
U-UH WHAT'S THE MATTER, HASHIMOTO?
NOTHING
I'M FINE I'M FINE

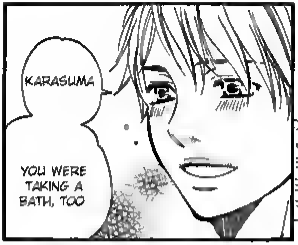
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
Here.
THANK YOU, KARASUMA
Do you need some help? HASHIMOTO-SAN?
OH?! NO, I'M FINE
Hashi mote...
...will you go out with me?
.....

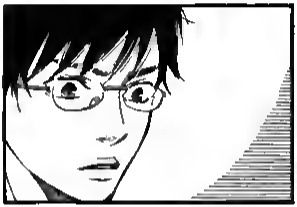
I can't be absolutely sure he won't say that
U can't...
I DON'T ENJOY GOING OUT WITH YOU
...YOU'RE SUCH AN ORDINARY GUY.
H...ISHIMOTO...
If I say okay

WHAT'S UP WITH HASHIMOTO?
HE'S BEEN WORKING UNUSUALLY HARD THESE PAST FEW DAYS
YEAH, I KNOW
CLUTCH
ORDINARY BUSINESSMEN SHOULD DO ORDINARY WORK
I'VE HEARD HE'S TRYING TO GET HIS PROPOSAL ACCEPTED
REALLY? I WONDER IF HE'LL KEEP WORKING OVER TIME?
YEAH
NO MATTER HOW HARD HE PUSHES HIMSELF ORDINARY IS ORDINARY
It's sad.

CHATTER
Hey, hey, are you going to drop by tonight?
I want cake!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
Have a good morning!
CHATTER
TONIGHT IT'S FLIGHT ATTENDANTS...
COME TO THINK OF IT, AT THE LAST PARTY...
Good job today!
TUMP
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
KARASUMA. THANKS
HASHIMOTO-SAN... AREN'T YOU PUSHING YOURSELF A LITTLE TOO HARD?
ARE YOU GOING TO HANG OUT WITH THE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS TONIGHT?
YEAH WELL, THE SENIOR GUYS SAID I HAD TO
I'M FINE! I'M FINE!

All right
YAWN...
HAS IT REALLY BEEN OVER A WEEK SINCE HE SAID HE LOVED ME?
YAWN
More than a week of this lifestyle has completely worn me out
WORN
WORN
WORN
入浴場


KARASUMA
YOU WERE TAKING A BATH, TOO



SURPRISE ENCOUNTER
OH

SPLASH

I'M FINE I'M FINE!
PAT

I WANT TO BE IN YOUR ARMS SOON...
HASHIMOTO-SAN
IF YOU'RE SLEEPY, YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF
YES, CLOSING...
REALLY? BUT I'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.

SPLASH
What can I do? I made up my own mind
SLIDE
I never stay and chat with Karasuma
PROWSY
PROWSY
I'm really busy with work so
even after he told me
that he loved me

SLIDE
SINK
I
I
-SAN
HASH...TO-SAN
MOTO-SAN!
HASHIMOTO-SAN!!

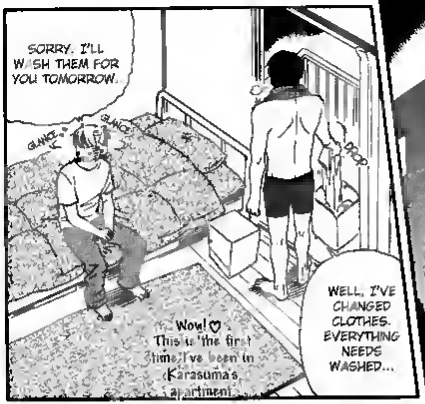
BLINK
WHAT THE ...?
KARASUMA...? WHY ARE YOU SOPPING WET?
cough
YOU IDIOT!
YOU FELL ASLEEP AND SANK UNDER WATER!
Oh!

I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN YOU SAID, "I'M FINE."
...like I feared."
THUMP
I GOT WORRIED SO I CAME BACK.
YOU'RE ACTING JUST LIKE I FEARED.
SIGH...
SORRY....
SHIKA
HUH?!
DO YOU HATE IT THAT MUCH?
SEEING ME
I'M REALLY SORRY YOU SAVED ME AGAIN

IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME.
JUST PLEASE STOP PUSHING YOURSELF SO HARD.
YOU...
THE DAY AFTER I TOLD YOU I LOVED YOU, YOU STARTED WORKING LATE EVERY NIGHT.
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER.
I JUST WANTED TO BE YOUR EQUAL AT WORK!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT ME!
I WAS WORRIED YOU'D THINK SO, TOO
PEOPLE HAVE CALLED ME "BORING" BEFORE

HEH
HEH
HEH
YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN ME AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER YET...
...BUT, IN YOUR MIND, I'VE ALREADY REJECTED YOU. YOU THINK IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
HEH, HEH
BUT MAYBE YOU'D THINK SO IF WE WENT OUT!
I DON'T THINK THAT
It's not easy being aware.
SO...
YOUR LACK OF IMAGINATION IS GREAT...!
THAT'S NOT A COMPLIMENT!
UGH!
...ALL THAT TIME, YOUR ACTIONS MEANT "I WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU AND I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP."
!?
...FROM THE MOMENT I CONFESSED UNTIL TODAY

I LOVE HOW YOU WORK AS HARD AS YOU CAN, HASHIMOTO-SAN
AAH... A BATH! A BATH! ♡
HICCUP
SLIDE OPEN
KARA-SUMA
There's some someone in there...!
ACK!
HICCUP
STARTLED
WH
Kanazawa-kun's wearing women's clothes...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING IN HERE?
WE'RE JUST DOING A LITTLE BUSINESS FOR THE PLANNING DIVISION


SORRY. I'LL WASH THEM FOR YOU TOMORROW.
GLANCE
GLANCE
BLUSH
WELL, I'VE CHANGED CLOTHES. EVERYTHING NEEDS WASHED...
Wow! ♡ This is the first time I've been in Karasuma's apartment.

I WONDER IF HE OVER-HEARD OUR DISCUSSION.
THUMP THUMP
DON'T WORRY. THAT GUY WAS PRETTY DRUNK.

CREAK
DID YOU COME HERE TO TALK?

You'd never know it's the same size as my
KARASUMA, YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF CLOSET SPACE. YOUR PLACE IS VERY SIMPLE.

I'VE ALREADY CHECKED OUT THE SOFTWARE
HEY!
ISN'T THIS A LITTLE SUDDEN? YOU
CREAK CREAK

NEXT... IT'S THE HARDWARE
CAN YOU SEE?
CLINK
LET ME TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES...
YEAH, AS LONG AS WE'RE THIS CLOSE...

つまらない男/END

A Boring Man

A BORING MAN

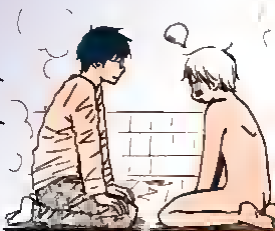
BY KOTETSUKO YAMAMOTO

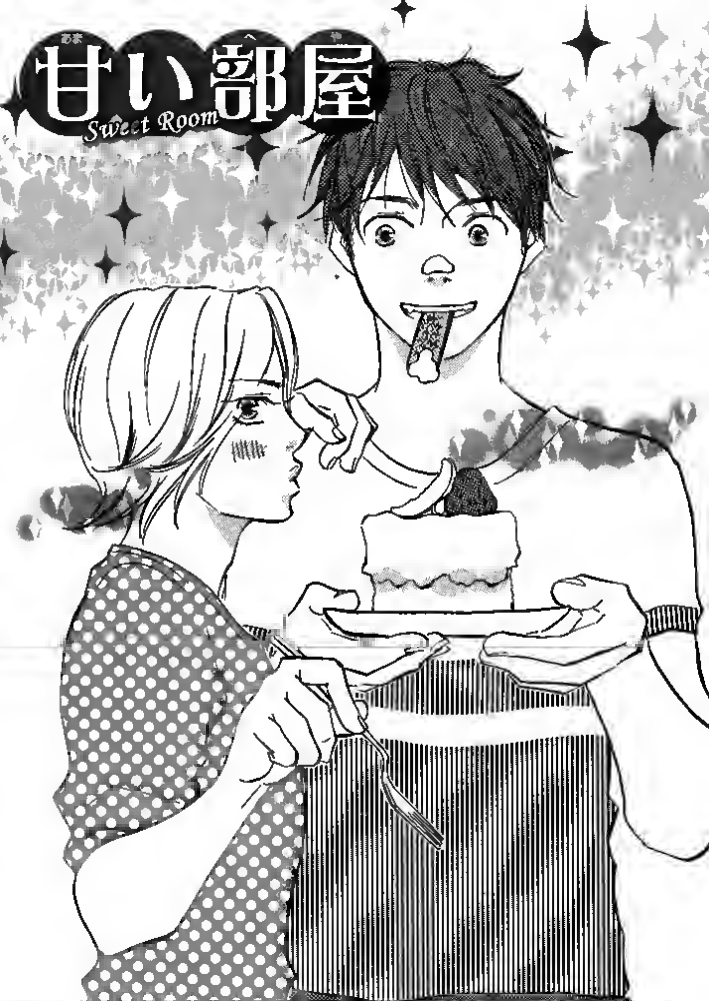
FROM THE COMIC A BORING MAN 2007
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN CHIPS! 2005 VOL. 10
SPECIAL EDITION BUSINESSMEN

Scanner: PresenceDear

Translator: PresenceDear

Editor: Mahchan




甘い部屋
Sweet Room

!?
WHAT'S GOING ON, KAZUMI?
Roommate wanted!
No girls.
For more information, call Kazumi Kotobuki, 2nd year
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR ROOMMATE ISSUE HAD BEEN "SETTLED?"

THAT BASTARD MOVED OUT!

REJECTED!
I'M NOT GONNA WASTE MONEY ON CRAP LIKE THAT!
WE'RE GOING DRINKING TONIGHT CAN YOU COME?
oh my god, his face is so pretty!
OH!
IT'S KOTOBUKI-SENPAI!

"Nice to meet you."
WHATEVER.
THAT WAS PRETTY HARSH
There, there.
WAAAH!

I DESPISE WASTE
NOW THAT WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO OBEY SOME STRICT RULES
A week earlier
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ROOMING WITH THE FAMOUS KOTOBUKI-SAN!
EVERYONE ON CAMPUS SAYS YOU'VE GOT BEAUTY AND BRAINS
2-A
Kotobuki
OKAY?
OKAY ♡
DON'T LET THE WATER OUT OF THE BATHTUB!
AAAAAHHH
AND ROUND
AND ROUND
TURN OFF THE TAP, DUMBASS!
You always let the water run while you wash your face!
HEY!
UNPLUG THE TELEVISION!
TRANCE
S-SORRY
BAM!
YOU KEEP LEAVING THE LIGHT ON IN THE BATHROOM, YOU IDIOT!
UH-
I'M SOR-
TURN IT OFF BEFORE YOU APOLOGIZE, MORON!

Roommate wanted
THAT'S HOW IT WAS. COMPLETELY NORMAL.
THAT'S NOT NORMAL!
I BET HE WAS PRETTY LET DOWN WHEN HE SAW WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LIKE.
THAT'S BULLSHIT.
WHY WOULD ANYONE BE LET DOWN?
I'M JUST FRUGAL...
REACH

OH..
SMILE
EXCUSE ME

BA-THUMP
Huh...?
BA-THUMP
Roommate wanted!
No girls
HUH?
BA-THUMP
HEY! YOU'RE POKO, RIGHT?
HI, SENPAI!
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
Wh
WHAT?! YOU TOOK THE FLYER...? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT?
BA-THUMP
What?!
WELL... THIS MIGHT BE A BETTER DEAL THAN MY CURRENT PLACE

You're kawaii! H-HI
HI
.....!
HI
ARE YOU SURE? YOU'D BE LIVING WITH THIS GUY
?!
I'LL BE IN THE CAFETERIA AT NOON
HUH?
Is that okay?
I'VE GOT CLASS NOW, SO I'LL GET THE DETAILS LATER--
OH!
HIS NAME IS RYOUSUKE FUJIYA, SO EVERYONE CALLS HIM POKO (LOL)
WE WORK AT THE SAME PLACE AFTER SCHOOL HE'S A FRESHMAN
PO--POKO?!
Like Hoshi

"Fujiya" is the name of one of Japan's most famous confectioners. Their mascot is a little girl called Poko-chan. Her best friend is a little boy called Poko-chan (pictured in the bubble above) hence Fujiya's nickname.

BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
No way!
HE'S A GOOD GUY.
Things like this really happen?
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
With someone I just met...!

CHATTER
Ryousuke Fujiya
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

RATTLE
I LEFT WITHOUT EVEN TELLING YOU MY NAME
ARE YOU ALONE? WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND?
AH!
THUMP
Fujiya...
SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
OH YEAH
HE HAD SOMETHING TO DO I HEARD YOU'RE CALLED FUJIYA
H-he surprised me...
HEH
CAN I COME TO YOUR APARTMENT TONIGHT?

CHATTER
HUUH?!
RATTLE
SHIT
WELL...
HEH
HAHA
CHUCKLE
I MAY BE LIVING THERE MYSELF
CHUCKLE
I WANT TO SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE
OH! RIGHT
!?
UH HUH

This is bad.
I'm definitely falling in love
And, even worse it's love at first sight!
Really bad

PERFECT! THIS PLACE IS CLOSE TO WORK AND SCHOOL AND THERE'S A LOT OF SPACE
We're splitting it, so the rent's the same, too.
THIS IS THE COMMON AREA AND THAT DOOR OVER THERE IS THE EMPTY ROOM
2-A
Kotobuki

AHEM
IF
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN WE CAN'T LIVE TOGETHER
I SEE
NOTHING IS PLUGGED IN
I DO THAT INTENTIONALLY IT REDUCES MY ELECTRICITY BILL
really?
!

Why did I...
sigh with relief?
HOW ABOUT WE TRY IT OUT FOR A WEEK?
!?
WHEW
WELL...
OKAY
I'm really attracted to him
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
that I'm in love with him?
handshake in living together
What if he find outs...
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT ANY-THING, BUT

He'll get fed up and say, "I'm leaving." Then I won't have a problem
This week, I'm going be flat-out cheap.
If I can keep my feelings hidden that will be the end
TA
DA!
WOW!
COOL! SUSHI!

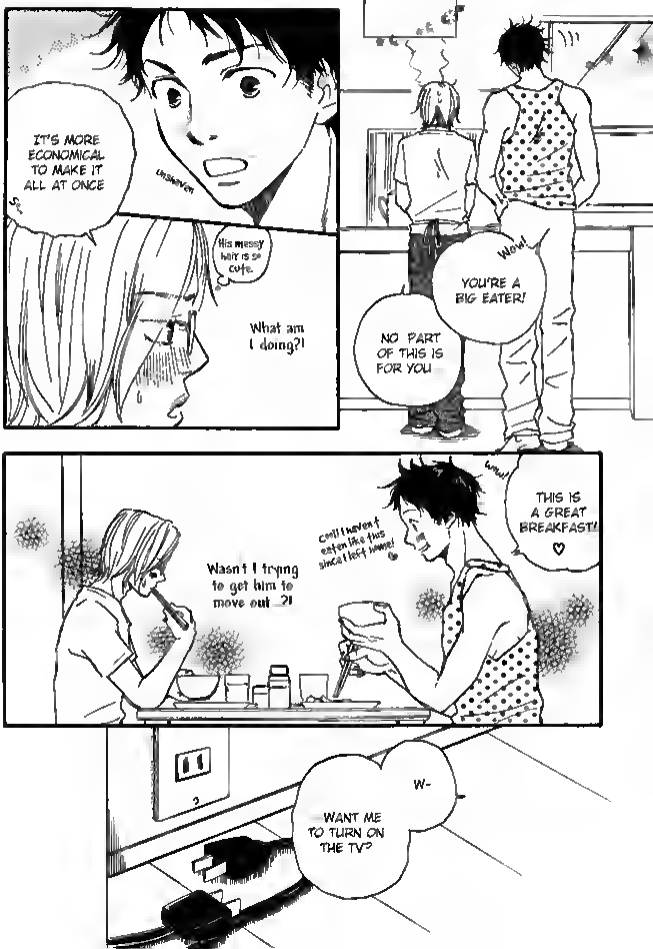
Why am I doing the exact opposite?!
MARCH!
Splurging like this is just a waste of money...!
I THOUGHT WE'D CELEBRATE YOUR ARRIVAL
AHA HAHA
YEAH. I WONDER WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?! THIS IS...
Yay!
Yay!
KOTOBUKI-SAN!
COME HERE
!?
WHAT?
I BOUGHT A MARKER TODAY...

WAHAHA!
AHAHAHA
IT LOOKS LIKE A CAKE SHOP!
GASP
LOOK!
2-A
Kotobuki & Fujiya
SQUEAK
!!
CHUCKLE
YOU'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE RUMORS I HEARD ABOUT YOU AT SCHOOL
@!..
Beauty.
IMAGE ACCORDING TO RUMOR
"Different from the rumors?!"
That means...
THROB
Brains.

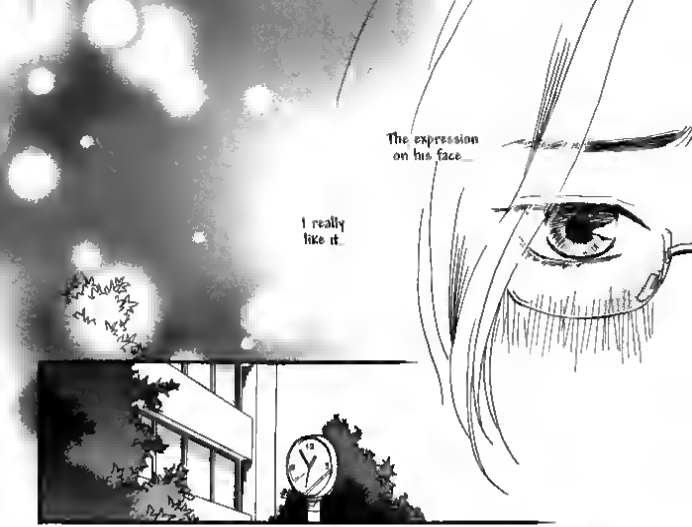
sfx: astonished
Huh?
I LIKE YOU
AH
AH
I c-can't take it
LET'S HAVE THAT SUSHI NOW!

USE WHAT YOU WANT FOR WASHING, BUT DON'T PULL OUT THE PLUG.
okay
He wants contact lenses during the day
I REALLY DON'T HAVE TO LET THE WATER OUT?
OPEN

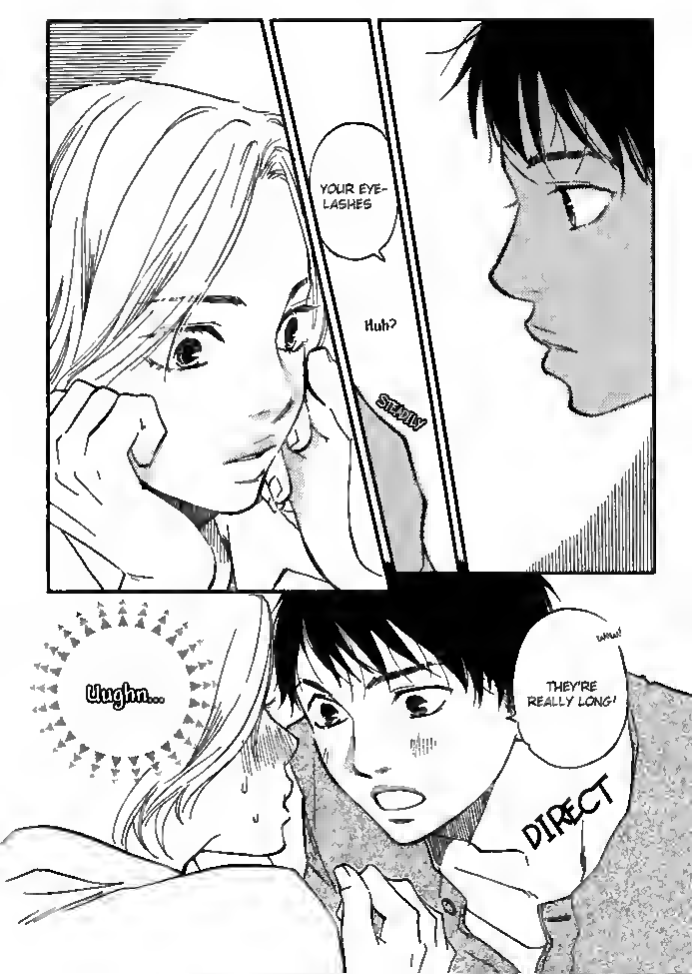
AAAGH!
WHY ARE YOU NAKED? PUT SOME CLOTHES ON, DUMBASS!
HUUH? I'M ALWAYS NAKED WHEN I GET OUT OF THE BATH
WE'RE BOTH GUYS.
DRIP
DRIP
SIP
CLOSE
AAAGH!
!!
UH-OH!
SIZZLE
GOOD MORNING!


IT'S MORE ECONOMICAL TO MAKE IT ALL AT ONCE
Unbelievable
His messy hair is so cute.
What am I doing?!
NO PART OF THIS IS FOR YOU
Wow!
YOU'RE A BIG EATER!
THIS IS A GREAT BREAKFAST! ♡
Wasn't I trying to get him to move out...?!
Can't I have it eaten like this since I left home!
W-
WANT ME TO TURN ON THE TV?

HEY!
I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF THE BEST WAY TO SAVE MONEY!
WHAT?
WE SHOULD TURN OFF THE TV AND TALK TO EACH OTHER!
Oh no—
This is bad


The expression on his face...
I really like it.
MOVE

WELL...
IT'S ONLY BEEN FOUR DAYS, BUT I DON'T THINK YOUR FRUGAL LIFESTYLE IS PARTICULARLY HARD TO DEAL WITH.
In fact, I'm really happy every time you cook for me.
FLIP
SO
—WHY DID THE GUY BEFORE ME MOVE OUT?
That's strange.
FRUIT
180


YOUR EYE-LASHES
Huh?
Slowly
Uughn...
WOW!
THEY'RE REALLY LONG!
DIRECT

AAAAGH!
CLATTER
HEY!
AAGH!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT KOTOBUKI-SAN?!
HAHA— I'M FINE—
I love him
I'M FINE—

I can't go on
I can't hide it anymore
HUH?
PACK MY BAGS...? WHY?

WE CAN'T LIVE TOGETHER.
I DON'T GET IT.
I.
I LOVE YOU.

AND THAT DISGUSTS YOU, RIGHT?!
SO THIS ARRANGEMENT CAN'T WORK OUT.
PACK YOUR BAGS!
This is the right thing to do
This way, I won't get hurt

And so it has turned out like this
Oh... well...
Roommate wanted.
No girls.
For more information call Kazumi Ketchiuki, 2nd year
I'm going to put up this notice and when I return to my apartment
he won't be there any more
WHY?

I-I ALREADY TOLD YOU THE REASON.
I...
...ALREADY KINDA KNEW IT
Huh!?
FLINCH
GRAB

HUH?!
WHIRL
AREN'T YOU BLOWING THIS OUT OF PROPORTION?
You're blushing
Hmm?
WHEN YOU STARTED ACTING A LITTLE MEAN
AND WHEN YOU FELL DOWN, JUST BECAUSE I GOT CLOSE TO YOUR FACE
!!
That shocked me.
All my
GUGAE
THAT WAS REALLY CUTE
!!!

All my effort...
YEAH?
BUT SINCE I THOUGHT YOU WERE CUTE, I CAN STAY, RIGHT?
IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?
I'M NOT EXACTLY COOL WITH IT EITHER, BUT
All of that!!!!
THAT'S
OKAY
to whatever you want—
STARE
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT...
BUT YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT I MIGHT DO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

2-A

Kotobuki & Fujiya

in name and reality, we have a sweet, sweet room

Sweet Room

by Kotetsuko Yamamoto

From the manga, A Boring Man, 2007
Originally published in Gush, August, 2006

Scanner: PresenceDear

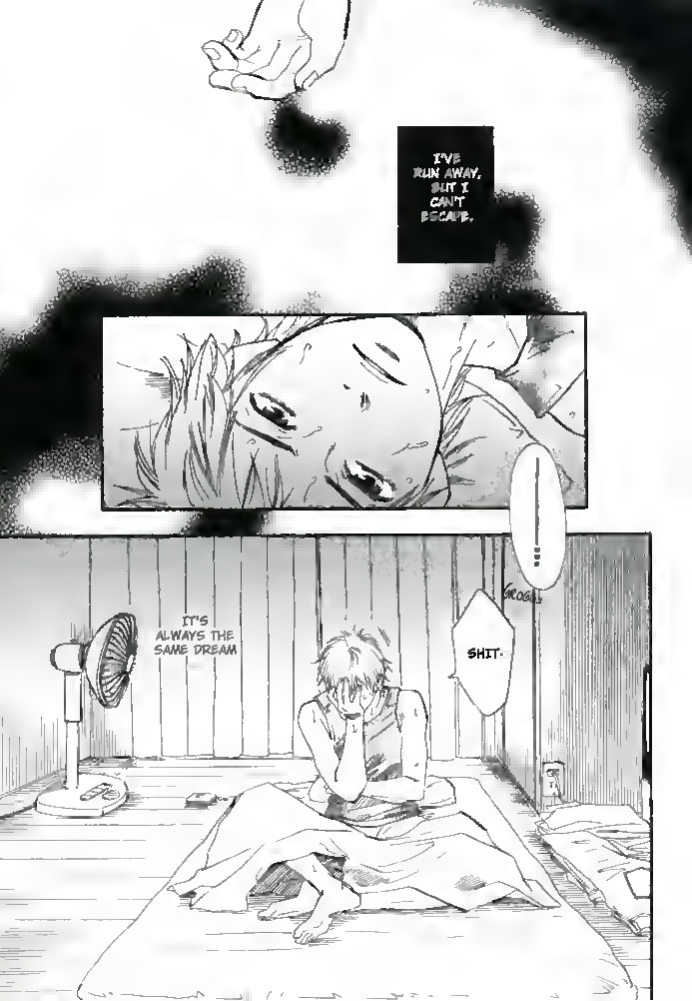
Translator: PresenceDear

Editor: Mahchan

Special thanks to P-san.

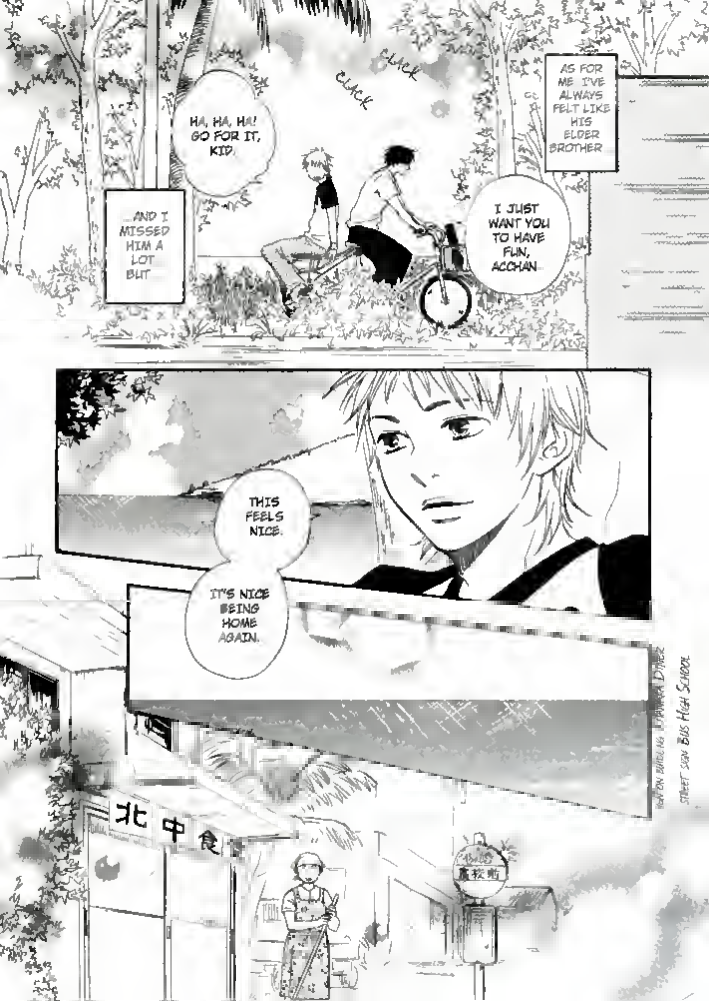
かたく
手をつなごう
Let's tie hands firmly.
前編

Kotetsuko Yamamoto presents


I'VE RUN AWAY, BUT I CAN'T ESCAPE.
...
SHIT.
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME DREAM

A TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE DREAM...
IT'S MAY.
SUMMER COMES EARLY IN MY HOME-TOWN
I'VE BEEN DRIPPING WITH SWEAT EVER SINCE I GOT UP.
IT'S SUCH A PAIN NOT HAVING A BATHTUB
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
OH
GRUMBLE

I'VE KNOWN SATORU KINJOU SINCE WE WERE KIDS
HE'S 16 AND A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL THAT'S FOUR YEARS YOUNGER THAN I AM
GOOD MORNING, ACCHAN
YO SATORU!
YOU HEADING TO THE BUS STOP?
SKIP THE BUS AND RIDE WITH ME
UNTIL I GOT A JOB AND LEFT HOME TWO YEARS AGO SATORU WAS THOROUGHLY ATTACHED TO ME
OK...
WHEN I CAME BACK HE WAS ALL GROWN UP, AND...
WHAT'S MORE KINDA DISTANT

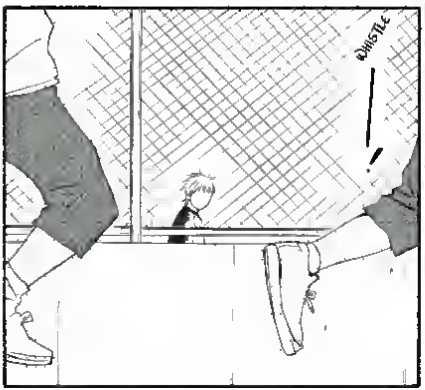

CLACK
CLACK
HA, HA, HA! GO FOR IT, KID.
AS FOR ME, I'VE ALWAYS FELT LIKE HIS ELDER BROTHER.
...AND I MISSED HIM A LOT, BUT...
I JUST WANT YOU TO HAVE FUN, ACCHAN.
THIS FEELS NICE.
IT'S NICE BEING HOME AGAIN.
北中食
高松町

HIKARU DAIGO
STREET SIGN BIG HIGH SCHOOL

VIEW IN FRONT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL
北中
MY EYES MET
HEY, TAKE CARE!
STUDY HARD!
WELL I'M OFF
GOOD MORNING, MA'AM
GOOD MORNING, SATO-KUN
CLICK
YEAH
WHAT'S THIS? YOU CAME WITH ATSUSHI TODAY?
SIGH
WHAT?!
GLARE
MY EYES MET
YOU HAD A PROPER JOB ON THE MAINLAND FOR A YEAR OR SO, THEN, WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST CONCERN FOR ANYONE ELSE, YOU JUST QUIT AND CAME HOME
HE SEEMS POPULAR COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN YOU
SINCE STARTING HIGH SCHOOL SATO-KUN HAS BEEN AN EXEMPLARY STUDENT YOU COULD LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT MATURITY FROM HIM!

THIS IS MY PARENTS' HOUSE
NOW I GET A SMALL PAYCHECK WHILE I'M HELPING OUT AT THE DINER
I'M WHAT YOU CALL A "PART TIME WORKER."

SHUT UP.
HUH?
HEY, ATSUSHI!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?! UHG.


WHISTLE

I JUST NOTICED HIM OVER THERE!
WAS THAT SATORU'S CLASS?
OH!
WHISTLE
WHISTLE
GYM CLASS?
DID THEY MAKE ME RUN AROUND IN THIS HEAT, TOO?
©2006 Kitahara Diner
WAVE
WAVE
SMILE
HEY! GO FOR IT!
MY EYES
TROT AWAY
?!

北中食堂

JEEZ
..
THAT WAS RUDE.
MY EYES

ATSUSHI IS IN THE BACK. WHY DON'T YOU EAT TOGETHER?
OKAY.
HEY, SATORU! WELCOME BACK!
GOOD EVENING, SIR.

GOOD EVENING.

OPEN
!
GOOD EVENING, SATO-KUN.

HIS DAD WORKS ON A CRUISE SHIP, SO HE'S HARDLY EVER HOME
SATORU'S ONLY RELATIVE IS HIS DAD
SATORU HAS ALWAYS COME TO OUR HOUSE FOR DINNER.
HEY! I JUST REMEMBERED...
I'M HOME
WELCOME BACK.
I'M GOING TO HAVE DINNER, BUT
ME, TOO.
MY EYES MET HERS♥
YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST SMILED.
YOU IGNORED ME WHEN I WAVED AT YOU THIS AFTERNOON.
MUHAHA
IT'S YOUR FAULT, ACCHAN

HUH?
HOW'S IT MY FAULT?!
YOU WAVE SO OPENLY. OTHER PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
?!
I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW YOURSELF A LITTLER BETTER.
MY EYES MET
MY EYES MET
WH-
WHAT? AA--THUMP
HIS EYES
!

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW..?
RATTLE
RATTLE
I'LL CLEAN UP. AND TAKE ACCHAN HOME.
O-OH
NOD
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
SA
I'VE BEEN THINKING.
CLICK
EVER SINCE YOU'VE RETURNED FROM THE MAINLAND, YOU'VE BEEN LIVING BY YOURSELF IN THAT CRUMMY APARTMENT. WHY?
CLICK
BEFORE YOU GOT THAT JOB, YOU LIVED WITH YOUR PARENTS.
WOULDN'T THAT MAKE MORE SENSE, SINCE YOU WORK AND EAT THERE ANYWAY?
I GUESS... MAYBE SO
BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT DID YOU MEAN EARLIER?
"YOU SHOULD KNOW YOURSELF A LITTLE BETTER" OR SOMETHING ...?

OH, YEAH.
I REMEMBER WHEN I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, I CONTACTED THE SCHOOL.
I MADE HIM REST AT MY HOME FOR A WHILE, THEN HE LEFT.
ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. THERE WAS A GUY AT THE BUS STOP WHO WASN'T FEELING WELL AND COLLAPSED.
DO YOU REMEMBER, ACCHAN?
.....
HEY!
DON'T IGNORE ME WHAT'S UP?!
MY EYES MET HERS♥
"HE SAW ME IN GYM CLASS AND WAVED."
"HE LOOKS REALLY GOOD IN THAT T-SHIRT HE'S WEARING TODAY." "HIS BED HAIR WAS SO CUTE THIS MORNING."
!!
HE'S A GUY IN MY CLASS AND EVER SINCE THEN, HE'S BEEN WATCHING YOU, ACCHAN.
HUH? WHY?!

HM WELL LATELY
A STUDENT WHO I DON'T RECOGNIZE HAS BEEN SAYING HELLO TO ME
Good morning!
AND, THEN THE OTHER GUYS WILL NOTICE MY INTEREST
Annoyed
clack
I KNOW BUT
BUT I WAS WAVING TO YOU.
clack
HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT SO, IF I INTENTIONALLY GO AND TELL HIM "HE WAS WAVING AT ME" WOULDN'T THAT BE WEIRD?
!!?
bang
SCREEEECH!!!
OUCH! WHY ARE YOU STOPPING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
DON'T YOU GET IT?!
THAT GUY IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN YOU, TOO!

IT'S NOT CRAZY
THAT'S CRAZY
Ha ha...
ACCAHN, I
LOVE YOU
MIKE'S ME T HERS♥
.....
!

Squeak
I REALLY MISSED YOU WHILE YOU WERE AWAY
click
SAY SOME-THING.
Splash
Splash
Splash
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT I LOVED YOU, ACCAHN
I WAS INCREDIBLY HAPPY WHEN YOU CAME BACK
clack
clack
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER RIGHT AWAY

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO ATTACK YOU
DUMBASS!
THAT'S NOT IT

NO. NOT TODAY.
AREN'T YOU...
...GOING TO TAKE A BATH?

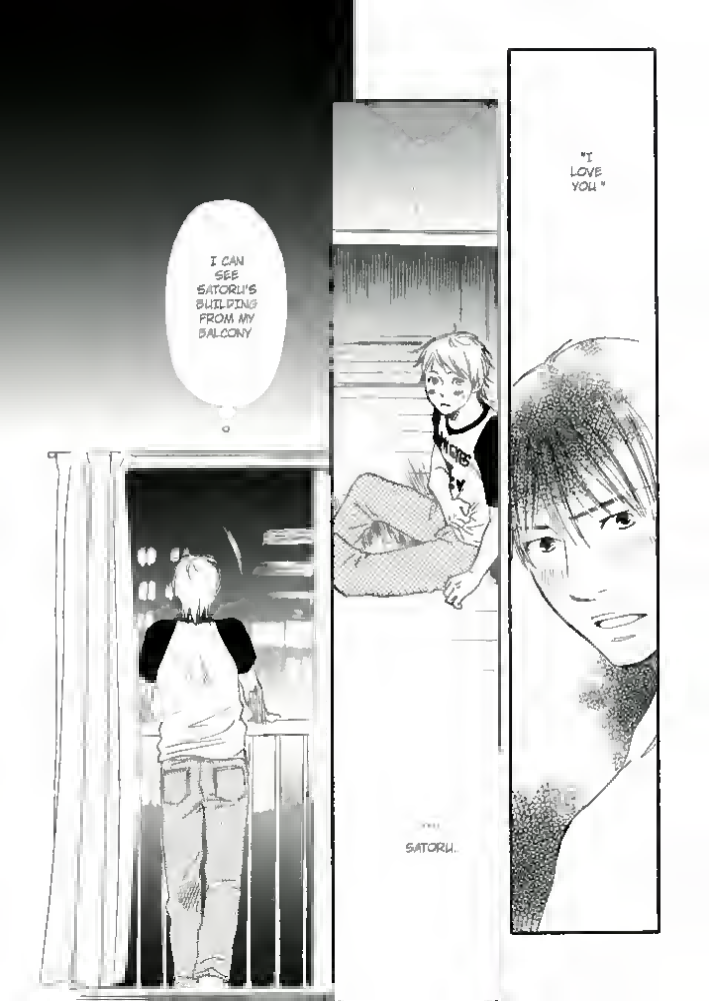
TWO YEARS AGO...
HE CAME TO THE AIRPORT WITH MY MOM AND DAD TO SEE ME OFF SATORU WAS 14 YEARS OLD BACK THEN

"I LOVE YOU ACCHAN"

MY BFF'S NOT HERE

FOR A KID HE ACTS SO GROWN UP. I MEAN, I'M A GUY
SOMEHOW
I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD CHANGE, BUT
—
"STRAIGHT GUYS"
OH
SHIT
grab

"I WAS INCREDIBLY HAPPY"
"ACCHAN"
MY MOM JUST NAGS ME ALL THE TIME
THAKNS! YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAS SAID THAT TO ME SATORU
"ACCHAN"
"WELCOME HOME"


I CAN SEE SATORU'S BUILDING FROM MY BALCONY
"I LOVE YOU."
SATORU.

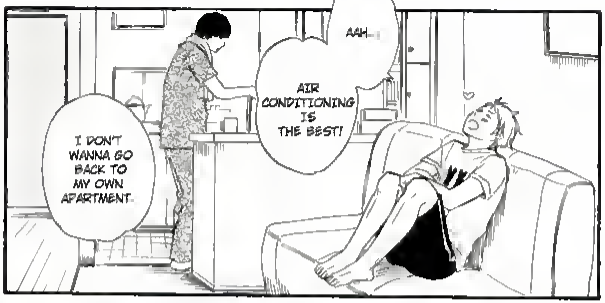
A MESSAGE?
MY EYES MET HERS
SATORU?!
UM. FOURTH FLOOR ON THE RIGHT
?!
WHAT THE HELL?
YOU FINALLY NOTICED
!
beep
FINALLY
NOW WAY! HAS HE BEEN WATCHING ME EVERY DAY?

Let's go somewhere tomorrow! 7:30
tap
SENDING
Splash Splash
CAN WE STOP FOR A MINUTE SATORU?
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
YEAH.
TAKE YOUR TIME.
NO I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT ALREADY.
THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION YESTERDAY

HOW ABOUT WE JUST START OFF...
AS FRIENDS?
YOU MEAN, IT'S OKAY?
HM... WELL LET'S JUST SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
COME ON
SAY SOME-THING

WOW! YOU'RE BLUSHING...
SHUT UP...
YOU FINALLY LOOK LIKE A 16-YEAR-OLD

DO YOU MIND...?
clasp
NOT REALLY
thump
thump
WHAT THE...?
thump
thump
IS THIS WHAT "FRIENDS" DO? I'M FEELING REALLY TENSE
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE FELT LIKE THIS...
BUT...


I DON'T WANNA GO BACK TO MY OWN APARTMENT.
AIR CONDITIONING IS THE BEST!
AAH...

YEAH...

IN THAT CASE...
HUH?

WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE?
MY DAD IS HARDLY EVER AROUND

Rustle
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO
flop
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, ACCAHN I WON'T FORCE YOU, BUT

creak
kiss
kiss
NN..
slide
Startled!

?
Shake
ACCHAN?!
Shake
Shake
Shake
TSUSHI

ACCHAN
I, - I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU SORRY
I'M SORRY
I GUESS I CAN'T
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE -?

NO
THAT'S NOT IT.
I MEAN, I LOVE YOU, SATORU.
!

I JUST CAN'T HAVE SEX WITH YOU
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

clutch
SORRY
IT DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG, BUT IT'S BEEN FUN.
THANK YOU, SATORU.
TOMORROW LET'S GO BACK TO BEING FRIENDS

Let's Tie Hands Firmly
Part 1

from the manga, A Boring Man, 2007
by Kotetsuko Yamamoto
Originally published in Gush, May, 2006.

Scanner: PresenceDear

Editor: Squirrel

Translator: PresenceDear

QC: Txilar
&
PresenceDear

Special thanks to P-san.

Come visit us at http://presencedear.com

かたく
手をつなごう
Let's tie hands firmly.
後編

"I JUST CAN'T HAVE SEX WITH YOU."
"SORRY..."
Sign. K tanaka Diner
北 中 食
"TOMORROW, LET'S GO BACK TO BEING FRIENDS."
A FEW DAYS
HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN SATORU.
WELL, I'M DONE FOR THE DAY.

WAIT, ATSUSHI!
DID YOU AND SATO-KUN HAVE A FIGHT?
NO.
NOT REALLY.
SATO-KUN HASN'T COME FOR DINNER IN TWO OR THREE DAYS
WHEN I ASK WHY YOU JUST HEM AND HAW, AND DON'T REALLY SAY ANYTHING
I'M WORRIED.
clack
clack
I DON'T BLAME HIM FOR HATING ME
AND NOT WANTING TO SEE ME
!

Screech
YO.
HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING OUT HERE A LONG TIME?
SATORU?!
clink
MY MOTHER IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
I'VE BEEN THINKING
Plop
Plop
HA HA
SORRY.
ALL I'VE GOT TO DRINK IS BARLEY TEA.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU REJECTED ME EVEN THOUGH YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME
...ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID, ACCHAN, BUT I GUESS I'M NOT BUYING IT
SO I'M NOT GIVING UP
SO THAT'S ...
THAT'S NOT A GOOD REASON!
SOMEONE IN MY DEPARTMENT MADE A PASS AT ME AND ASKED ME OUT ON A DATE. THAT PERSON WAS A MAN —
AT THE COMPANY WHERE I USED TO WORK

I DECLINED THE OFFER AND FIGURED THAT WAS THE END OF IT.
AT LEAST, AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED
LATER, I SAW THE GUY AT A COWORKER'S FAREWELL PARTY, BUT...
I ACTED COLD AND STAYED AS FAR AWAY FROM HIM AS POSSIBLE
HOWEVER, HALFWAY THROUGH THE PARTY, I STARTED TO FEEL EXTREMELY SLEEPY AND I PASSED OUT...
WHEN I WOKE UP I WAS IN A STRANGE ROOM.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, IT WAS A HOTEL

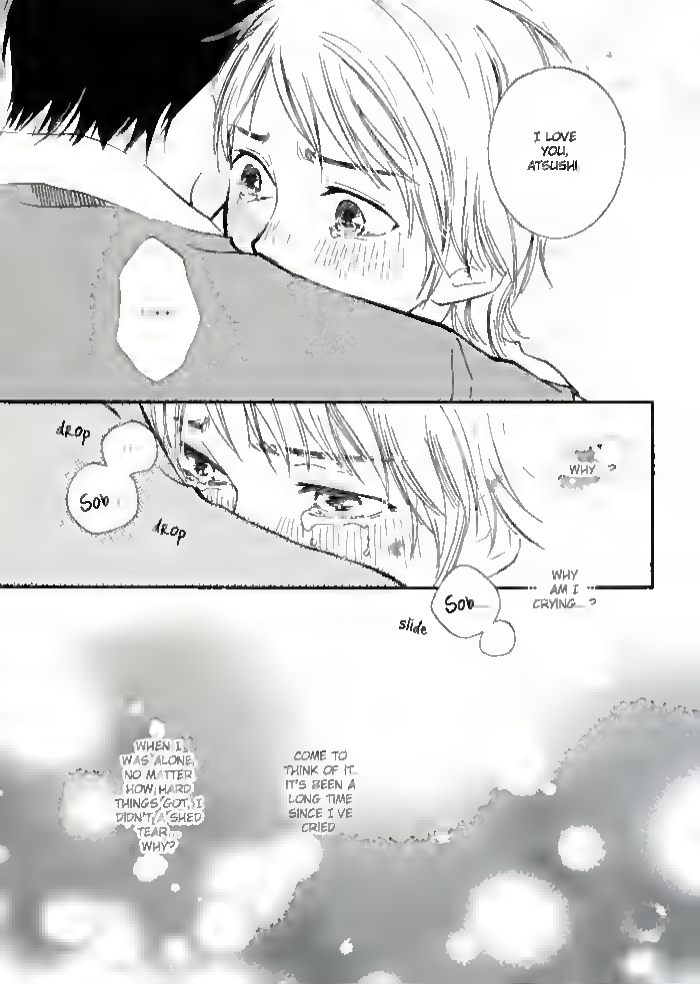
AT THE TIME I WAS GAGGED
...AND MY ARMS WERE TIED SO I COULDN'T MOVE

"IT'S YOUR FAULT."
THE GUY LAUGHED IN MY FACE AND SAID
"YOU WEREN'T MAKING IT EASY FOR ME. SO I HAD TO RESORT TO SLEEPING PILLS."
UNABLE TO FIGHT BACK I WAS RAPED
IN ORDER TO GET AWAY FROM HIM, I TURNED IN MY LETTER OF RESIGNATION AND GOT ANOTHER JOB
A LITTLE WHILE LATER, I HEARD HE'D HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE LAW AND HAD BEEN ARRESTED
I STARTED A NEW LIFE AND GOT A GIRLFRIEND
BUT AFTER A WHILE WE BROKE UP.
EVEN WITH MY NEXT GIRLFRIEND
...I WOULD TREMBLE WHEN SHE TOUCHED ME AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

I WAS COMPLETELY WORN OUT... SO I CAME BACK HOME.
IT'S PATHETIC, BUT I'D BEEN TRAUMATIZED
I STARTED HAVING DREAMS ABOUT THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT WERE DONE TO ME...
I THOUGHT, IF I GO HOME, I MIGHT FEEL SAFE. AND YOU WERE HERE TOO.
I CAN'T TELL THEM
EVEN NOW I HAVE NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT IF I WERE LIVING AT HOME. THEY'D FIND OUT AND START WORRYING ABOUT ME
SO THAT'S WHY...
YOU'RE NOT LIVING WITH YOUR MOM AND DAD...

BUT, YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, RIGHT? BECAUSE OF THIS
pat
IDIOT.
DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT
I'M SO STUPID
I WAS HAPPY WHEN YOU CAME HOME. I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
!
I'M SORRY.
ACCHAN

I WON'T DO MORE THAN THIS
IT'S OKAY
UH...
TREMBLE
IT'S OKAY. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
WON'T YOU HATE
NOT BEING ABLE TO HAVE SEX?
EVEN THOUGH WE LOVE EACH OTHER?
IT'S TOO MUCH TO ASK.
I'M FINE WITH IT
TOO MUCH...


I LOVE YOU, ATSUSHI
...
drop
Sob
drop
WHY ?
Sob
slide
WHY AM I CRYING ?
WHEN I WAS ALONE, NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS GOT, I DIDN'T SHED A TEAR... WHY?
COME TO THINK OF IT... IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE CRIED

NO, ATSUSHI LIKE THIS...
YO...
Triple play.
GOOD MORNING ATSUSHI
clack
clack
clack
STARTING TODAY, FACE THIS WAY...
EVER SINCE LAST NIGHT, SATORU HAS BEEN CALLING ME "ATSUSHI."
sigh
Ugh
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN DRIVE ATSUSHI
WHEN I FACE THIS WAY, ALL I CAN SEE IS YOUR BACK.

COME TO THINK OF IT...
HAS SATORU'S BACK ALWAYS BEEN THIS BROAD?
I NEVER NOTICED BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING BACKWARDS
thump
thump
THIS IS STRANGE
squeeze
I EXPECTED SATORU TO STAY THE SAME AS EVER
thump

北中食堂
AND SO
SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE WE STARTED GOING OUT
SATORU DOESN'T TOUCH ME ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY
WE MEET IN THE MORNINGS THEN AFTER EATING DINNER TOGETHER, WE GO HOME

SOMETIMES, WE DO THINGS LIKE GO ON DATES
HEY SATORU!
LET'S GO SHOPPING NEXT!
THEN, I'LL BUY YOU DINNER, ATSUSHI
RECENTLY I'VE HARDLY HAD ANY BAD DREAMS
INSTEAD...
HUH...? BUT I'M ONLY WEARING A T-SHIRT.
Get real

Next stop ...
Rattle
Rattle
Rattle
PSSHH...
VROOOM...
MY MIN IS FULL OF CON FUSIN THIN
clasp
!

I WANT TO RESPOND BUT I CAN'T
THE NICER SATORU IS THE MORE I GET ANGRY WITH MYSELF
I'LL LET GO IF ANYONE COMES AROUND
whisper
rattle
rattle
rattle
I'M STARTING TO FEEL INSECURE
SHIT

Isn't your family there around here?
ATSUSHI? WHAT'S WRONG?
All I see are people flirting.
SHAKE
SHAKE
WHAT IS IT?
SATORU SAID HE WAS OKAY WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE
WILL IT BE LIKE THIS FOREVER?
NOTHING
CAN IT POSSIBLY STAY THIS WAY
OUR ENTIRE LIVES —?

KINJOU-KUN!
THAT'S ...
YOU DON'T COME HERE VERY OFTEN, DO YOU, KINJOU-KUN?
That's right.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU IN REGULAR CLOTHES.
YOU LOOK SO GROWN UP!
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS KIND
NICE BOOTS

SORRY, ATSUSHI
WERE THOSE SOME GIRLS FROM SCHOOL?
YEAH
HM...

I GET IT
EVEN I THINK IT'S PATHETIC
ATSUSHI...
ARE YOU PLANNING TO WALK HOME?
YOU CAN TAKE THE BUS HOME ALONE
I'M JEALOUS OF THOSE GIRLS...
THE GIRLS WE RAN INTO UNEXPECTEDLY... THE GIRLS WHO CAME OVER TO TALK TO HIM...

ATSUSHI!
GRAB
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
I'M SO SELFISH
EVEN THOUGH
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE

I'M WORRIED
I HATE MYSELF
I HATE THIS
I WANT
I...
...CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH YOU, BUT I'M JEALOUS
I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU, SATORU
I WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO TOUCH ME...!

THIS ISN'T ENOUGH
Clasp
WE'LL JOIN HANDS LIKE THIS
I WANT TO BE JOINED WITH YOU, SATORU!

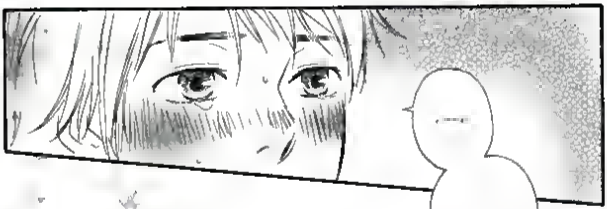
STOP IT...!
...
IF YOU SAY STUFF LIKE THAT...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF...!

YOU'RE SO CUTE, SATORU!
IDIOT...! YOU'RE THE CUTE ONE
SOB
IF IT'S WITH SATORU

NN—
……
KISS
KISS
KISS

slide
AH..
pant
IT'S OKAY
GO ON
clench
!?

SORRY
IT'S A REFLEX. I'M FINE.
KISS
AH
NN
pant pant
AH
AH



HE DID IT GENTLY SO I WOULDN'T BE FRIGHTENED

DID IT FEEL GOOD?

Idiot

DAMN! I DON'T HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
OH, RIGHT.
I'VE GOT THE T-SHIRT I BOUGHT YESTERDAY. ♡
I'm nice.
SATORU! HURRY UP! YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!
MM
COME ON LET'S GO
open
Grab
YOU MEAN, "SEE YOU LATER."
!

Let's Tie Hands Firmly / END

Let's Tie Hands Firmly Part 2

from the manga, A Boring Man, 2007

by Kotetsuko Yamamoto

Originally published in Gush, June, 2006.

いつも
手をつないで
Always hand in hand

It's the middle of summer
Recently, I gave up my old apartment
Now I'm living rent free at Satoru's place
RIGHT!

Satoru's high school uniform
Two years ago I wore one just like this
SMILE
!
OPEN
I'M BACK

HEY, WELCOME HOME!
LOOK, LOOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK? ♡
TOO BIG
He's holding up the pants so they won't fall off
I STILL LOOK PRETTY GOOD IN A UNIFORM!
Is that my uniform?
BLUSH
?!
WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING?

DON'T USE SOMEONE'S CLOTHES FOR ROLE PLAYING!
ROLE PLAYING WHAT?!
I feel like
we're getting along like a couple of love birds
北中食堂
Thanks for the meal
Kitanaka Diner
THANK YOU!
OH, RIGHT ATSUSHI...
THIS ARRIVED FOR YOU

THIS WILL BE MY FIRST ONE!
WOW!
RUSTLE
I KNOW YOU WERE GONE ABOUT TWO YEARS
YOU CAME BACK LAST YEAR, BUT...
AN INVITATION TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION
WHAT IS IT?
Reply Card
Mr Atsushi Kitanaka
The guys who went to college the guys who got jobs
—I wonder how they're all doing
Oh yeah When I came home I didn't get in touch with anyone

A CLASS RE-UNION...?
AH...
FLIP
Re-Union
LIFT
I'LL TAKE THIS ♡
GULP
GULP
GULP
RUB
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN EVERYONE!
YEAH
SO YOU'RE GOING TO THAT RE-UNION ?
I TOLD YOU TO DRY YOUR HAIR THOROUGHLY
DRIP
DRIP
I AM DRYING IT
WHERE?

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
北中食堂
SLIDE
I'M BACK
WELCOME BACK, SATO-KUN
SUMMER VACATION STARTS TOMORROW, DOESN'T IT?
YEAH

THE TEACHERS ARE HOLDING SHORT COURSES OVER SUMMER VACATION.
REALLY? ARE YOU GONNA GO?
I HELP OUT IN THE DINER, DON'T I?!
You're so mean!
SHOUT
SHOUT
THAT'S NOT A PROPER JOB!
Hey now were your grades, Satoru?
Pretty much the same.
You're naturally smart Satoru.
*Atsushi's father
CLICK CLICK
CLICK
Aww!
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE IT EASY.
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A JOB YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO SAY THAT!
YEAH
I WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE, BUT I'M NOT ATTENDING CRAM SCHOOL, SO...
DON'T BE A SMARTASS! YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF YOUR CLASS AND YOU NEVER EVEN STUDY
CHOMP
CHOMP
ARE THEY HOLDING THESE SHORT COURSES EVERY DAY?

NO.
EVEN WHILE I'M ON VACATION, I'M GOING TO COME HERE WITH YOU, UNLESS I'M BUSY
CLACK
I CAN STUDY AT THE DINER.
CLACK
HM... THEN, WHILE YOU'RE TAKING CLASSES, YOU CAN COME WITH ME IN THE MORNINGS
CLACK
NO. IT'LL JUST BE MORNINGS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, STARTING TOMORROW

Hmm...
I SEE.
Oh... no I can't help smiling...
HUH?
I'D RATHER BE WITH YOU THAN HOME ALONE.

Atsushi!!
It's me, Souichi Tanashita
YEAH
CLACK
RING
YOUR CELL PHONE
CLACK
HELLO?
STAR ONLY
He says such sweet things to me
I WONDER WHAT WE'LL DO TONIGHT
!?
RING
TAMA?!
HUH?
YEAH, YEAH LET'S MEET UP! ♡
RIGHT NOW? REALLY?!
When did you get back in town?!
I was shocked when I got your reply card for the reunion.
YEAH - SORRY FOR NOT GETTING IN TOUCH WITH YOU

OKAY. AT THE WATERFRONT
YEAH YEAH
I GOT IT BYE
BEEP
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
YOU'RE GOING TO MEET SOMEONE NOW?
YEAH ♡
A GUY I USED TO HANG OUT WITH IN MY THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE GRADUATION
HE TOLD ME TO WAIT BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE. SORRY, SATORU. YOU CAN GO ON HOME.
LAWSON
YOU'RE GONNA GO DRINK-ING—?
HE'S DRIVING
SO HE CAN'T DRINK AND I'M NOT GOING TO DRINK, EITHER
WHY ARE YOU LOOK-ING LIKE THAT?
IT'S OKAY DON'T WORRY

Silent Submission Incident Entry
NO. I WANNA SEE WHAT THIS GUY IS LIKE.
JUST GO HOME, SATORU!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...? THIS GUY IS MY FRIEND!
SIGH
YOU'RE AN EASY TARGET, EVEN WHEN YOU'RE SOBER. I'M SCARED TO THINK ABOUT YOU DRUNK
ANGRY
HONK
HONK
TWITCH
ATSUSHI!!!

TAMA! LONG TIME NO SEE ♡
DO I LOOK A LITTLE OLDER?
THAT UNIFORM BRINGS BACK MEMORIES WHO IS THAT?
OH...
UH THIS IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE SATORU KINJOU
GOOD EVENING
OH
UH, YEAH...
BOW
PLEASE LOOK AFTER ATSUSHI TODAY
I'M TAMASHIRO ARE YOU A THIRD YEAR? YOU SEEM LIKE A STEADY GUY.

VROOOOM
HEY, LET'S GO ALREADY, TAMA.
HUH?
WELL, SEE YA, KINJOU-KUN
REALLY?! YOU LOOK OLDER THAN ATSUSHI
I'M A SECOND YEAR.
I am 16
You're taller than I am!
SHUT UP

OPEN
WELCOME HOME
YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT
OH HAHA... I'M BACK
TURN
I GUESS WE HAD A LOT TO TALK ABOUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME
HMM.
IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE TO CALL AND SAY, "I'M GOING TO BE LATE "

I didn't do anything wrong!
Why is he acting so weird?!
Wh
What...?
CREAK
CREAK
Typically when I'm done working...
SLIDE
I have a pleasant dinner with Sateru then head back to his apartment
That's how it usually is but
YOU CAN COME IN, ATSUSHI
OH YEAH
Good for Atsushi
北 中

SILENCE...
...ever since last night this weird mood has come over him...
Maybe I made him worry
I should have at least sent him a text message
ARE WE HAVING DINNER?
"
O_OH AREN'T YOU STUDYING?
THUMP
I'M DONE

I can't put up with this...
SATORU
ABOUT LAST NIGHT...
RING RING RING
What bad timing...!
BEEP
YES...?
ATSUSHI! It's Taka.
THANKS FOR YESTERDAY.
Is something up?
YEAH, ACTUALLY...
WHEN I TOLD EVERYONE THAT YOU'RE BACK, THEY ALL SAID THEY WANTED TO SEE YOU, ATSUSHI!
THEY CAN'T WAIT FOR THE CLASS REUNION SO, THIS WEEKEND...
GASP
MIYA AND FUKU!?!
Yeah, yeah! Let's take an overnight trip and have some fun.
I'D LOVE TO GO! ♡
IT'S OKAY I'VE GOT THE WEEKEND OFF
YEAH, OKAY. BYE.

LIH
LIH... SATORU...
LET'S HAVE DINNER.
STAND
GLARE
Oh
Crap
BEEP
SIR MA'AM
CAN WE HAVE SOME DINNER PLEASE?
SURE
RATTLE

LISTEN.
SATORU!
YOU SHOULD GO.
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THAT? MY FRIENDS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME
THEN YOU SHOULD GO

I'M A LITTLE RELIEVED
I GOT AN INVITATION FROM SOME FRIENDS TODAY, TOO
!
AN OVER-NIGHT TRIP?
YEAH. THIS WEEKEND AT MY FRIEND'S GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE—
THERE'S A BEACH AROUND THERE
He's not worried and everything is okay?
PHEW
I SEE—
GASP
UM, THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS— ARE SOME OF THEM GIRLS?
GULP...

ARE YOU SAYING IT'S OKAY TO HAVE MALE FRIENDS, BUT NOT FEMALE FRIENDS?
DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
MY FRIENDS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME
I SEE.
He really pisses me off!

WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING SUCH A STUPID QUESTION!
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU SAID ALL THAT DUMB STUFF ABOUT ME!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?!
HEY, ATSUSHI! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING?
OPEN
BRUSH
Everyone in the diner can hear you
I WON'T BE COMING BACK FOR A WHILE MA'AM
HUH? SATO-KUN?!

Satoru, that bastard...
He's awful (Well I guess I've been a little awful too)
WHAT'S GOING ON? JEEZ!
Shut up!
LIKE I GIVE A SHIT ABOUT THAT ASSHOLE!
北中
There's no way I'm going to be the first one to apologize !

CRASH...
HEY! ♡
WHAT A GREAT VIEW!

So the weekend has started and I'm still fighting with Satoru
I haven't seen him since that day
I want to see him

am I the only one who wants to see you?
!
Or_
How long are you going to keep this up?
Satoru, you bastard Hurry up and apologize
Hey, Atsumu!
okay!
Let's put the mat here.
WHAT THE ?! ISN'T THAT KINJOU-KUN?
Huh?!
YOU'RE HERE, TOO!
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!

WHAT? ARE YOU STAYING OVERNIGHT?
YEAH
SO ARE WE! YOU CAN SEE THE INN RIGHT OVER THERE
YEAH
I'm—

SIZZLE

Oh

We're in the same place—

—but it looks like he's having fun without me

SNORE
Z
Z
Z
Z
SNORE
CRASH
CRASH
CRASH
SNORE
WHISTLE
SNORE
SNORE
WHISTLE
Z
Z
Z
Z
And grinding their teeth...
GREAT THEY'RE SNORING
STARE

Or are you sleeping? It's already past one in the morning
CLOSE
You know I'm close by, so hurry up and call me
If you call me I'll forgive you
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
?!
AH!
having fun with people other than me...
BEEP
Damn
Damn
Damn
Satoru was smiling like he was having fun

I'm glad.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ARE YOU AWAKE...?
Y'yeah.
Acsusn..
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
HELLO...?
H...

Nothing really... I just wanted to hear your voice
ME, TOO
All he did was call me "Atsushi"—
ATSUSHI...
Can you come out now?
...so why am I on the verge of tears?

This beach is a pretty popular night spot
WELL, I GUESS, IF YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO SEE YOU...
Yikes...!
?!
SHOCKED
CRASH
CRASH
ATSUSHI
!

WERE YOU WAITING?
BA-THUMP
It's probably only been a few hours
NO
but it feels like we haven't seen each other in a very long time
CRASH
CRASH
IT—
IT REALLY ANNOYS ME WHEN YOUR FRIENDS CALL YOU "ATSUSHI"

THEY'RE JUST FRIENDS
I KNOW, BUT...
THOSE GUYS WITH ME ARE JUST FRIENDS, TOO
WELL, I WAS IRRITATED, TOO
WHEN I SAW YOU HAVING SO MUCH FUN THIS AFTERNOON
I'M SORRY I TREATED YOU SO BADLY
BUT...
...YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE... STILL, I CAN'T HELP FEELING ANNOYED

YEAH
WE WERE BOTH UPSET ABOUT THE SAME THING AREN'T WE A PAIR OF IDIOTS?!

KISS
LET'S MAKE UP
LET GO
!?
!?
POUNCE
—I'LL BEAT YOU UP!
WHAT—?!
IF YOU ACT COLD TO ME—
KISS
KISS
WAIT
ATSUSHI

IDIOT
IT'S BEEN A WEEK... ♡
!?
YOU ASKED FOR IT, ATSUSHI! YOU'D BETTER ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES
GRAB
TH-
THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND...
THEY'RE ALL DOING THE SAME THING
C'mon this is where...

OH, WELL YOU FORGOT TO TAKE IT OFF
WHY MY ONLY TANK TOP?!
You're an animal! You could've taken it off beforehand.
Because it rose up...
SPLOSH
SPLOSH
THIS SUCKS.
CRASH!
CRASH
CRASH!
I wasn't the only one...
I SAW!
BLUSH
HE'S GOT A THING FOR BAGGY CLOTHES
TOO BIG
You're not even wearing my hoodie!
??
WHY DO I HAVE TO WEAR YOUR SHIRT...?
OH!
WELL, LET'S GO BACK
DON'T GO LIKE THAT!
SQUEEEEEZE

♣ いつも手をつないで /END ♣
Always Hand-in-Hand

The extras start here
This time, in the extra section, there's an illustration of the couple from "A Boring Man" at least.
This is my second book with GLISH comics. I want to thank you for picking it up. That's why I tried very hard on these extra pages. I'll be happy if you enjoy looking at all of them.

Always Hand in Hand
by Kotetsuko Yamamoto
From the manga, A Boring Man, 2007.
Originally published in Gush, August, 2006.
Scanner: PresenceDear
Translator: PresenceDear
Special thanks to P-san.
Editor. Mahchan

HAVING SPENT A FEW LOVEY-DOVEY MONTHS IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH KARASUMA,

A NEW PROBLEM HAS APPEARED

つまらない男オマケ 悩める男

A Boring Man Extra – A Troubled Man

IDIOT!!
IS THAT SOMETHING A NORMAL PERSON WOULD SAY?
IF YOU'RE FEELING UN-COMFORTABLE I CAN CARRY YOU ON MY BACK
THAT'S TRUE...
SIGH IT'S SUCH A MOOD SPOILER HAVING TO COME UP HERE EVERY SINGLE TIME AFTER WE'VE FINISHED...
My face is still warm too.
Hey
What?
R R R R
Phone call
LOOK! LOOK! ♡ IT'S HASHIMOTO-SAN
SUCH A SERIOUS EXPRESSION
LATELY IT'S LIKE HE'S A DIFFERENT MAN HE LOOKS SO CHARMING NOW~

GOOD WORK~ ♡
CLANK
Does he have a girlfriend?
I don't know~
Another beer~
EBES. BEER
TASTES EVEN BETTER WHEN I THINK OF THE VACATION DAY TOMORROW ♡
WOW~ GREAT DRINK ♡
NEW ARRIVAL
Sizzle
Sizzle
Welcome!

KNOW WHAT?
YOU'VE BECOME QUITE POPULAR THESE DAYS
HASHIMOTO, DID YOU KNOW?
Things like, "Lately it's like he's a different man. He looks so charming now."
I HEARD THE GIRLS TALKING ABOUT YOU IN THE OFFICE TODAY.
ME? SHOULDN'T IT BE YOU?
WHAT?
MAYBE SO. BUT IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU
MUNCH
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I BET IT'S THE REWARD FOR YOUR HARD WORK

I BELIEVE IN HIM
BECAUSE THIS GUY IS INCAPABLE OF TELLING LIES
AFTER HEARING THAT FROM KARASUMA I'VE FINALLY GAINED SOME CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF
THANKS
Thanks
I'll let you have this squid
I LOVE KARASUMA
I HOPE I CAN BE WITH HIM FOREVER
KARASUMA DO YOU THINK
KARASUMA HAVE THE SAME FEELINGS RIGHT
THAT IT'S A GOOD IDEA IF WE MOVE OUT OF THE DORM AND RENT AN APARTMENT TOGETHER
THAT WAY
AND THE RENT WILL BE MANAGEABLE IF WE PAY TOGETHER
WE WON'T HAVE TO BE CONSIDERATE TO OUR COLLEGUES
Sizzle

SIGH
OH WELL.
WHY ISN'T HE SAYING ANYTHING? ANY KIND OF RESPONSE WOULD BE FINE
Silence...
HUH?
I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU THIS YET-
WHOA———
NO WAY
DID HE JUST SIGH !?
KABANG
I'M GOING BACK !
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
HUH?

IT HURTS
BEING DUMPED BY HIM REALLY HURTS
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT SOMETHING 5 BOTTLES OF FRUIT WINE CAN WASH AWAY
Thank you-
Yo, Hashimoto Good work for today

HASHIMOTO !?
I DIDN'T EXPECT IT WOULD BE THAT KIND OF REACTION
Thank you for coming—!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT IT UP
STEP
STEP
STEP

SLAM

HEY!
KNOCK KNOCK!
HASHIMOTO
WHY DID YOU LEAVE SO SUDDENLY?
SHOCK
!!
CAN I COME IN FIRST?
IS THAT OKAY?
CLICK
SLAM
HASHIMOTO
WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?
...
BECAUSE

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT BREAKING UP
Um...
Mm
HOW DID THE CONVERSATION FLOW IN THAT DIRECTION?
YOU WERE SIGHING!!
SO, THE ONLY ONE WHO WANTED US TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER WAS ME
...THAT'S UNAVOIDABLE.
Uh...
SEEING AS HOW I'M JUST A NORMAL SALARYMAN
HASHIMOTO WAIT
LISTEN TO ME...
BUT I...
Sob

I SAID LISTEN TO ME!
JUST FOR A MOMENT BE QUIET AND LISTEN TO ME
Sob Sob
...OKAY.
FIRSTLY, THE REASON THAT I SIGHED
WAS BECAUSE YOU WENT AND BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT AHEAD OF ME
...??

BECOMING AN ENTREPRENEUR AND STARTING MY OWN CAREER HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM.
NO WAY——
...I WAS WAITING TO PROPERLY HONE MY SKILLS AND GET A BETTER GRIP OF MY FOUNDATIONS
BEFORE RESIGNING FROM THIS JOB.
Shock!
!?
EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD TAKE A COUPLE OF YEARS.
KARASUMA IS PLANNING ON LEAVING ME FOR REAL...
WHEN THAT TIME COMES...
I WILL TAKE YOU WITH ME.
WE WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER

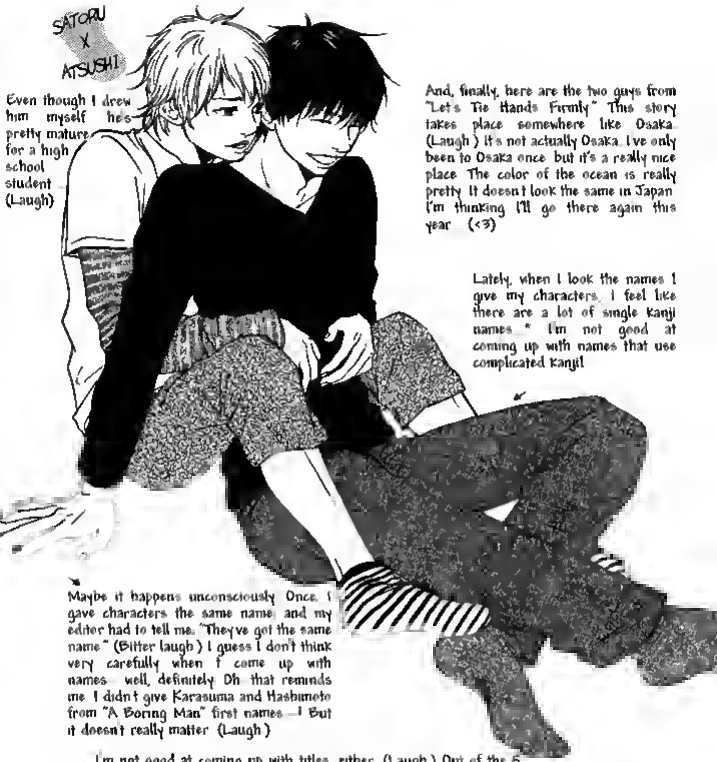
...I'VE ALREADY PREPARED THIS WHOLE SPEECH LONG AGO,
SIGH.
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT YOU WOULD BRING UP THE SUBJECT AHEAD OF ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN AHEAD OF YOU?
THIS IS A MILLION TIMES BETTER THAN MY LINES--
Sore loser
"WE WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER."
IT SOUNDS JUST LIKE A PROPOSAL.
...I'M SORRY.

BUT,
EVEN IF YOU'RE MY LOVER, I STILL WON'T BE BIAS
IF YOUR WORK ISN'T SATISFACTORY, I'LL FIRE YOU JUST THE SAME
Tching
THAT'S WHY YOU'LL ALSO HAVE TO IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS I'M COUNTING ON YOU
ERM RIGHT...
I'LL BE EVEN MORE HARDWORKING, STARTING FOR NOW
Gulp
LEAVING THAT BEHIND US
YOU PROMISED TO PAY FOR TONIGHT'S DINNER
YET, YOU RAN AWAY WITHOUT PAYING
Ah.
That's right...

THIS DEBT SHALL BE PAID FOR WITH YOUR BODY
OH
OH
Creak
AH
I CAN'T GO ON
KARA SU
MY VOICE CAME OUT
UGH
Hu?
Haa
HEY RESIGNING FROM YOUR JOB— THAT'S GOING TO BE IN A FEW YEARS TIME, BUT WHAT ABOUT A NEW APARTMENT ?
Haa
MAKING LOVE IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT IS JUST TOO TROUBLESOME
NO WAY

Tremble
Tremble
Hah
AH—
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE IF WE DON'T BUILD UP A CAPITAL,
SO EVEN THE RENT IS VERY USEFUL
WE HAVE TO SAVE MONEY
Ha—
AFTER ALL, YOU ARE SO CUTE, TRYING TO KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN ♡
Huff Huff
Cocky Smile
IN THE END, REGARDING THIS NEW PROBLEM..
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE! IT'S SUCH A BOTHER!
Hii
WHY DON'T YOU JUST SAY IT'S BECAUSE YOU ENJOY THIS KIND OF PLAY!?

A Boring Man / End



Even though I drew him myself he's pretty mature for a high school student (Laugh)

And, finally, here are the two guys from "Let's Tie Hands Firmly" This story takes place somewhere like Osaka (Laugh) It's not actually Osaka. I've only been to Osaka once but it's a really nice place. The color of the ocean is really pretty. It doesn't look the same in Japan. I'm thinking I'll go there again this year (<3)

Lately, when I look the names I give my characters, I feel like there are a lot of single kanji names.* I'm not good at coming up with names that use complicated kanji!

Maybe it happens unconsciously. Once, I gave characters the same name and my editor had to tell me. "They've got the same name." (Bitter laugh) I guess I don't think very carefully when I come up with names... well, definitely. Oh, that reminds me. I didn't give Karasuma and Hashimoto from "A Boring Man" first names... But it doesn't really matter. (Laugh)

I'm not good at coming up with titles either. (Laugh) Out of the 5 comics included in this book, my editor thought up titles for 4 of them. I try really hard to come up with titles myself, but most of them get rejected. (Laugh) I'm always depending on other people.

So, I noticed that these 5 comics (actually, it's 3 stories) all have younger tops. Maybe I like younger tops. Yeah, I do. (Laugh) When you consider everything that's been drawn, I think the percentage of younger tops is pretty low, but... in this comic, younger tops seems to be a theme. Cool. I just wrote "younger tops" a lot.

*Translator's note: The names 悟 (Satoru) and 惇 (Atsushi) are written with a single Chinese character. Many Japanese names use two.

ONE DAY, SATORU-KUN..
NO WAY!
KINJOU-KUN?
NO WAY KINJOU-KUN HAS A GIRL FRIEND
SEXI CURLY?
AAAGH! REALLY? WOW!
IS THAT A HICKEY?!
THAT BASTARD ISN'T HE AN HONOR STUDENT?
EEEEE...! HE'S BLUSHING
TEACHER, THERE'S TSUN-QUAINT IN HERE
NO WAY! KINJOU-KUN IS SO CUUUUUTE! AW..
SHOCK
HUH?!
AHH THAT KINJOU
HOW CUTE HOW CUTE
SQUEAL
TEE HEE
I HOPE WE'LL MEET AGAIN
BY KOTETSUKO YAMAMOTO

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